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SIPDIS  
FOR NEA/ARP ANDREW MACDONALD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/02/25  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [YM](#) [AE](#)  
SUBJECT: UAE and the Yemen Donor Conference in Riyadh

REF: STATE 16107; ABU DHABI 77; ABU DHABI 6; RIYADH 225

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard Olson, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) PolOff delivered Ref A demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs America Desk Officer Faisal Al Mazrouei and an assistant to Ambassador Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, Director of Arab Affairs. Al Suwaidi is the UAEG point person on the Friends of Yemen (FOY) and will likely chair the economy and governance working group (Ref B). He is currently in Ecuador and is not expected to attend the February 27-28 GCC Secretariat meeting in Riyadh. The UAEG delegation will include one official from the MFA's Department of Arab Affairs, one Ministry of Finance representative, and a group from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), which announced in December a plan to finance development projects in Yemen totaling \$650 million (Ref C).

¶2. (C) Comment: Dominated by technocrats, the makeup of the UAE delegation reflects a GCC objective noted in Ref D that the focus of the Riyadh conference be technical rather than political. The ADFD is only one avenue of support --- military assistance is funneled through the UAE armed forces --- but it is charged with coordinating the execution of UAE development projects in Yemen. The ADFD's presence in Riyadh signals the UAE's intent to move forward with its project commitments. End Comment.

¶3. (SBU) Note: The MFA's Director of Arab Affairs and POC on the FOY is named Mohammed Sultan Saif Al Suwaidi. The Acting Director General of the ADFD is named Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi. The MFA's Mohammed Al Suwaidi is not expected to be in Riyadh. The ADFD's Mohammed Al Suwaidi may attend. End Note.  
OLSON